

What happens when... I need to register a death?

What I need to do first

Many people are not sure what to do following a bereavement. Very often it is the first time people have had to deal with such things.

In most cases the death should be registered before the funeral and usually within five days of the date of death.

Registration is usually by a relative of the deceased. If no relative is available then anyone present at the death or the person agreeing to pay for the funeral can register the death. You will need to make an appointment with the registrar.

In Barrow and Ulverston (South Furness) this is the Nan Tait Centre in Barrow call...

0300 303 2472

In Kendal it is the County Offices on Busher Walk call...

0300 303 2472

What does the Registrar need to know

- The full name of the deceased,
- The date and place of their death
- The date and place of their birth
- Occupation
- Their home address
- If they were receiving state pension or other benefit
- The date of birth of any surviving spouse

The registrar will also need the Medical Certificate of cause of death. This will be issued by the hospital if death was in hospital or by the Doctor certifying death. It can be useful to have the deceased's birth or marriage certificates if available.

The registrar may issue a green certificate for burial or cremation, depending on the arrangements

Where a death has been referred to the Coroner, the Coroner's Officer will issue an interim certificate of the fact of death which can be used until either an inquest has taken place or the Coroner has decided that none is needed.

Legal concerns

If the person who died left a Will, there may be particular requests about the type of funeral in the Will. If Poole Townsend prepared the Will, we may also have notes with more details about the funeral. You should therefore call in to see us as soon as possible after the death to check the position.

It is best to make an appointment, please call...

01229 811811

If the deceased left a Will

A properly drawn up Will names the person or persons who will deal with things. These are called the Executors. They will be responsible for administering the estate and sorting out legal, tax and

administrative matters. Sometimes it may be necessary to obtain probate of the Will.

Where there is no Will, the law decides who is responsible for dealing with the estate and how the estate will be divided. The same sort of legal, tax and administrative affairs need to be sorted out but in this case it is called "letters of administration", although the paperwork required is very similar to probate

At Poole Townsend we have a dedicated team experienced in dealing with estates. We offer a first interview free with no obligation where we will discuss what needs to be done, how we can help you and how much it will cost.

Administering an estate can be complex and time-consuming. Sometimes people are happy to deal with this themselves although generally people want to make sure that they carry out their legal responsibilities properly and appoint a professional to carry out the work on their behalf. Any legal fees are taken from the estate so you do not need to worry that you will have to pay any legal costs yourself.



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